

it glistens in the sunlight and is a terror to the mariner. But when the sunbeams have penetrated it enough suddenly it crumbles to atoms and disappears. There are rotten icebergs on the land as well as in the sea.

LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS.

Public libraries are public blessings. How much good they do cannot be estimated. In Chicago the John Crearas library is simply a public reference library of scientific literature. At first thought one would imagine that such a collection would fall to draw. Think of a library with nothing to offer but statistics, scientific dissertations, etc. Not one work of fiction, not one classic, but merely cold science.

Yet there are on an average three hundred visitors daily. Engineers, electricians, men engaged in all the fields of science, mechanics,—the votaries of all that goes to make up the great world's work in all departments.

John Crearas was an American, but he inherited his nature from Scotch ancestors and he was as canny as is Carnegie. He grew very rich in Chicago, and being without near kin he bequeathed his property in a way which he believed would do the most good. He was in life a queer old stick. He belonged to one church and several clubs. He was a generous giver to all worthy charities, took especial interest in all educational and charitable matters, but he always lived at a hotel and when he went away for a week he gave up his rooms to save expense.

To distant relatives and near friends he left more than \$600,000, to charitable institutions and for public purposes he left \$1,000,000, but the bulk of his estate—about \$2,500,000—which was so handled that it grew to \$3,400,000—he left for such a library as above described. The means are set aside to build a \$400,000 structure on the lake

front, and the hope is to duplicate this in a very few years.

The new building will be constructed to hold 1,000,000 books. The present library has more than 200,000 volumes and some are most rare.

Professors of colleges in outside states often spend half their vacations in study in the Crearas library. The purpose is to gather under one roof all of value that has ever been published on scientific or mechanical subjects. It will contain books in all published languages, and on all scientific themes.

Wandering through this library one instinctively thinks how Egyptian kings built the pyramids to be at once their monuments and their sepulchres.

Crearas may have thought of the monument but not of the tomb. The new structure will surely be his monument and its contents will preserve his name longer than the Egyptian plan. When the kings died the pyramids were closed, but the light from the windows of the Chicago monument will radiate forever, and reverence for the founder will continue to increase as the centuries ebb and flow.

The librarian of the Crearas library is Professor Clement W. Andrews, brother of Mr. Horace Andrews of this city. He is an enthusiast over his work, and a very lovely gentleman. His mind is straining in anticipation of the time when the new, great structure will be completed and stored with a million volumes—with everything rare in science.

Still we believe for this working day world the thought of Peter Cooper, the thought of Mr. Carnegie in founding a great technical school is the very highest form of wisdom and charity. When young minds are started off right and when the education goes to the hands and eyes as well as to the brain; that is all that can be done. When every child is started that way there will

be no need of asylums in the land for the poor. Of course the old and the sick must be taken care of, but the needs for this will grow less and less as practical education for the young increases. The need of it, too, is more and more urgent. The man who can only perform manual labor is merely at best competing with machinery.

The laboring man who is to rise must mix more and more brain into his work. Modern work becomes more and more an assertion of mind over matter every day.

The latest coup in the farcical Nye libel suit against Councilmen Fernstrom and Cottrell was the transfer of the case, on motion of Judge Powers, from Diehl's court to Judge Tanner's tripod. That makes it real nice for Mr. Nye, no?

THE UPWARD WAY.

There is a professor of chemistry and anatomy in Indiana that for many years has devoted his life to the study of the elements of the animal body which create and sustain existence. He believes he is close upon the discovery of the long sought for elixir of life, and claims that he has already succeeded in producing a salt which applied externally and internally brought to life a boy who had been half an hour under water. This is referred to merely to call attention to the work that is going on in a thousand laboratories to chase diseases to their very den and to impale them there.

The old alchemists in their struggles to find this same elixir, this something which will give to mortals immortal life failed, but they gave to chemistry the dignity of a science and discovered many of the acids in use now. This same zeal is not confined to any one sphere. In Germany, hundreds of men are working through chemistry to add to the world's food products or to reduce to smaller forms the substance of the food now in

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